

REMARKS

This amendment replaces the amendment that was filed on January 10, 2007.

The application has been amended to better describe the present invention.

The Examiner has rejected all of the pending claims based upon Bicocchi alone or in combination with Primos. Claim 11 has been amended to address the rejection.

While the Examiner did not expressly state what structure in Bicocchi was cited as being the "rigid cylindrical member configured with a spiraled groove portion" of claim 11, the Applicant assumes that screw stud 54 was intended by the Examiner. In lines 52-55 of column 2 and Line 1 of column 3, the Bicocchi reference teaches a screw stud 54 which "**PREVENTS** endwise movement of said tuning sleeve 53." (emphasis added). It appears that screw stud 54, when retracted, allows for adjustments to be made, and then when extended, locks the current setting in to prevent further changes. The previously presented claim limitations clearly limit the invention to a system which allows for variability of a range of free end lengths, but does not altogether lock down all variability. The above language from Bicocchi clearly shows that it is intended to PREVENT movement and does not teach allowing movement within a limited range. The notion of advancing a rigid cylindrical member with a spiral groove to LIMIT THE RANGE OF VARIABILITY is not taught or even suggested as being desirable by Bicocchi.

Since Bicocchi does not anticipate claim 11, and the rejections of the remaining claims are based upon the assumption of anticipation of claim 11, they also are believed allowable in view of the current amendments. Prompt allowance of the claims is anticipated.

The above amendments are intended to render the rejections of the Office Action as moot. As the Office Action was sparse in its description of the Bicocchi reference, if the screw stud 54 is not what the Examiner intended as the structure, then the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner issue a previously presented NON-Final rejection specifically pointing out the structure in Bicocchi cited as teaching "rigid cylindrical member configured with a spiraled groove portion." Such a non-final rejection would allow the Applicant to address the Examiner's true, but previously unstated, intentions and further allow the Applicant to remove the amendments contained herein made in good faith upon an assumed interpretation of the sparse Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,

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